

Claims

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- 5 A method of representing an object appearing in a still or video image, wherein the object appears in the image with a first two-dimensional outline, by processing signals corresponding to the image, the method comprising deriving a view descriptor of the first outline of the object and deriving at least one additional view descriptor of the outline of the object in a different view, and associating the two or more view descriptors to form an object descriptor.
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2. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the view descriptors are derived using a curvature scale space representation.
3. A method as claimed in claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ further comprising
- 15 deriving a descriptor of the object which is related to the shape and/or size of the object and which is independent of the view of the object in the image.
4. A method of representing an object appearing in a still or video image comprising deriving a descriptor which is related to the shape and/or size
- 20 of the object and which is independent of the view of the object in the image.

5. A method as claimed in claim 3 ~~or claim 4~~ wherein said view-independent descriptor corresponds to the volume of the object.

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6. A method of searching for an object in still or video images by processing signals corresponding to images, the method comprising inputting a query to the computer in the form of at least one two-dimensional outline of an object, deriving a descriptor of the query object, comparing said query descriptor with stored descriptors for objects in images derived in accordance with a method as claimed in ^{claim 1} ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ and selecting and displaying at least one result corresponding to an image containing an object for which the comparison between the respective descriptor and the query descriptor indicates a degree of similarity between the query and said object.

7. A method as claimed in claim 6 ~~dependent on claim 1 or claim 2~~ wherein a query is input in the form of two or more two-dimensional outlines of an object, and wherein a query view descriptor is derived for each said outline, and wherein the step of comparing comprises comparing each said query view descriptor with each view descriptor in each stored object descriptor to derive a plurality of view-similarity values.

8. A method as claimed in claim 6 wherein the view-similarity values are analyzed to derive object similarity values.

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claim 6

9. A method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 6 to 8~~ wherein at least some of the object descriptors include ~~view-independent descriptors derived in accordance with a method as claimed in claim 3~~ and wherein the method comprises inputting a view-independent query value and the step of comparing compares the query value with the view-independent descriptors for the stored object descriptors.

claim 6

10. A method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 6 to 9~~ wherein the query descriptor is derived using a curvature scale space representation of the query object outline.

11. A method of representing an object appearing in a image by processing signals corresponding to said image, the method comprising deriving representations of a plurality of different 2-dimensional views corresponding to the object.

12. An apparatus adapted for implementing a method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 11~~

13. A computer program for implementing a method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 11~~

a 14. A computer system programmed to operate according to a method as claimed in ^{claim 1} ~~any one of claims 1 to 11~~.

a 5 15. A computer-readable storage medium storing computer-executable process steps for implementing a method as claimed in ^{claim 1} ~~any one of claims 1 to 11~~.

10 16. A method for searching for objects in still or video images substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

a 17. A computer system substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

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